

DX LISTENING DIGEST 3-003, January 5, 2003
edited by Glenn Hauser, ghauser@hotmail.com

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<http://www.worldofradio.com/dxldta03.html>

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NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn

WORLD OF RADIO 1163:

WRN ONDEMAND: <http://www.wrn.org/ondemand/worldofradio.html>

[Low] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1163.rm>

(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1163.ram>

[High] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1163h.rm>

(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1163h.ram>

(Summary) <http://www.worldofradio.com/wor1163.html>

RFPI: Mon 0030, 0630, 1230, Tue 1900, Wed 0100, 0700, 1300 7445
and/or 15039

WBCQ: Mon 0545 7415

WJIE: M-F 1300, daily 0400 -- maybe; Sun 0630, Mon 0700, Tue 0630 7490

WWCR: Wed 1030 9475

PAY PAL

If you wish to make a contribution, we can accept money in this way, to our accounts wghauser@hotmail.com or ghauser@hotmail.com Thanks!

BE IN STYLE

I don't want to discourage anyone from including DXLD on their mailing list, but how about letting the other guys do the editing fix-ups for a change in 2003y. You can reduce gh's workload by submitting your

loggings and reports in DXLD style. This can be perceived by taking careful note of how material ultimately appears in DXLD, but to be explicit, some of the points:

I don't mind putting in our distinctive two asterisks and a space (if your material also goes elsewhere). Country header is always in caps and ends with a period. Do NOT use caps in your credit line, name or location. Credit line is always enclosed by parentheses. Always give your full name and location. If you mention equipment, include that in the credit line. DATES should go right next to the first time mentioned, not in the credit line!!!! Always specify the date with each logging; otherwise all we can do is put the date of your *report* in the credit line, which may not be the same. Since numerical dates can be ambiguous, use a 3-letter month abbr., e.g. Jan 5.

If you submit a long list of loggings, we are going to need a credit line at the end of each one of them used, or at least each country. You can copy and paste this over and over as needed. It helps to have material in alphabetical order by country [or non].

Avoid truncating words, but spell them out. We can spare the bits to make your material more readable! Do not put UTC after every time or kHz after every frequency. We all know these units apply. At most mention UT only once in an item. If there is any doubt you are using UT, or something needs to be mentioned in local time, specify that. If you include a unit, do NOT attach it to the number, but leave a space between them. USB and UT (not UTC) should be in caps, as should most other initialisms.

Do not use colons or periods within times, unless you are specifying seconds within a minute. Please follow our convention of using a dot rather than a comma for a decimal point. Avoid clutter in general, but do not hesitate to use punctuation to make your material read more smoothly and expressively. For SW frequencies, use kHz, not MHz.

Separate phrases and clauses by commas or semicolons as appropriate. Do NOT connect two or more independent clauses with commas (comma splice). Use three dots only to indicate something is omitted from a quotation. Otherwise to show a pause use three hyphens --- or a semicolon, if not a period. If using the 3-hyphens (amounting to a dash), do not connect them to the words before and after.

Since different character sets do not agree on what represents an apostrophe or quotation marks, we use the grave accent mark ` (upper left on our keyboard) once or twice, respectively. Avoid the key next to ENTER. Learn and apply the difference between its and it's. Putting 's after 73 is redundant and nonsensical. Avoid using the & symbol unless it's part of a common title or name, not just to avoid writing

out a-n-d.

Selecting material: when in doubt, send it! But DXLD does not routinely publish everything received; isn't it large enough already? We are more likely to publish material sent exclusively to us; secondly, to us directly among others; thirdly, anything else we find on lists and other publications. But it must be of some interest beyond the routine: a station you, and nearly everyone has logged countless times before is not news, unless there is a frequency, time change, or something to make it stand out, such as a clever remark or observation about the programming heard. This is all very subjective, and gh appreciates your accepting his constant editorial decisions about what to include and what to leave out. As a rule, material original to this publication is credited to DX LISTENING DIGEST, spelt out, while material from elsewhere uses the abbreviation ...via DXLD.

We often receive multiple copies or links to press items. While we try to credit everyone who reported them, this is not always possible, especially if some meet a deadline and others do not (and no, we cannot specify in advance when a deadline for any given issue will be.) Ideally, it's best to have a copy of a story and a direct link to it, so we can either run it all or link to it, depending on space available, relevance, etc.

Sometimes we have to close an issue which has reached the 100K arbitrary limit before we have rechecked all our usual sources and E-mail accounts. But anything missed will likely be in the next issue if it is not duplicative.

If English is not your native language, do not worry. We are constantly fixing errors and improving syntax, etc. If you make a point of re-reading your material once it has appeared in DXLD, this could amount to some lessons in English, which could help you.

Before sending, please proofread your material for typos, especially in numbers. Acquaint yourself with spell checker if you have not already. Did you leave anything out, notably the frequency! We do not like to have the frequency first in every item --- this doesn't read well. The only reason this has been encouraged is to make it less likely the frequency be forgotten. If you do put a frequency first, place a comma after it. Thanks for your co^peration.

Oh yeah, accents are welcomed and encouraged. If they are missing in French, Portuguese, Spanish, etc., I have to put them back in one by one (Glenn)

** ANGOLA. Inactiva Ecos del Torbes en 4980 y Cima 100 (Santo Domingo) en 4960. Por el contrario entra muy bien Radio Nacional de Angola en

4950, a partir de las 0445, cuando la se0al empieza a oirse con m·s fuerza, hasta despuÈs de las 0540 (Ad·n Gonz·lez, Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA. HCJB: South Pacific release adds programmes to regionalise service; Au government asked us to include programs originating in Au. First half hour each weeknight (0700): Mon, Music of Australia including Au culture, history, folklore. Tue Music of Asia. Wed Music of NZ. Thu Music of S Pacific. Fri Music of Asia, another edition.

0800 each weeknight, Great Destinations, tourism program, in Pacific and Asia. Weekends. Country Down Under, on Au country music. Sunday night, Sunday Night Alive, done by Dennis, hour long music, info, interviews, etc. [not clear if 0800 applies to these too]

Asian service, a lot of the same, but additionally, Radio Classroom, M-F 1430, teaching English ASL, with assistance of Bible College of Western Australia, 3 nights a week, with another program 2 nights a week, by longtime teacher of the Gospels (Dennis Adams, Melbourne, DXPL Dec 28, which was finally put up ondemand Jan 5, along with the Jan 4 edition, notes by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

This week's report on DX Partyline, again interviewing Dennis Adams, in charge of the operation in Melbourne, originally live on the 0200 UT Sat broadcast: It's been a hectic week, including getting ISDN links established (pray they will not fail), to feed to Kununurra. Ready to go 'tomorrow', i.e. UT June 5, at 0700-1200 on 11755 to Pacific. Has also tested the last few days, VG signals reported, but no further details known here.

Why will the Asia service be delayed? There was a major windstorm at the site, knocking down the antenna to Asia, quite severely damaged. Still working on it. So will be delayed a few days, and start not later than next Sunday, 12th.

Schedule: 0700-1200 11755, Pacific, same frequency which had been used by Pifo at 0700-1100.

When ready, 1230-1730 to Asia, QSY to 15480 as of two days ago, because in the two months since the ABU conference, other stations had occupied the frequencies originally planned, 15130/15135. [Checked the 15480 area Jan 4, and it was pretty empty here at the moment ---gh].

Tests to Ethiopia [at 1800] will be delayed further, perhaps a couple of weeks, since that antenna was also damaged.

Power on 11755 is starting at 25 kW, and will gradually be cranked up

to 50 kW, in order to evaluate how much power will do the job. It is thought that from this proximity the full 100 kW, as used from Quito and to Asia will not be necessary.

The office e-mail address given last week has been flooded with E-mail, so about reception, please use instead: english@hcjb.org.au

Program schedule TBA, including new DX programs (?). DXPL will also be carried, Sat 0930 and 1430 (HCJB DXPL 0300 UT Jan 5 on 9745, notes by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Did anyone hear HCJB-Australia testing since Dec. 26? There was a report on Radio Bulgaria's DX program this weekend (compiled by Rumen Pankov) saying that the Kununurra site was testing between 0700 and 1730 UTC on one of these frequencies: 15310, 15135, and 11755 kHz. I heard this news on the DX show at 0330-0340, UT-Jan. 4 on 9400 kHz, beamed to North America (Joe Hanlon in Philadelphia, USA, EDXP via DXLD)

Believe was this I heard testing with preaching at 0250 UT Jan 5 on 15465. Can you hear it? (Chris Hambly, Victoria, DX LISTENING DIGEST)
Not a thing here (gh, OK, DXLD)

11755, HCJB Kununurra, heard at s/on with loop announcement and music from 0655 thru to Australian national anthem at 0700. Suffers heavy QRM from Finland and only about 30% intelligible here in its target zone. I understand that they are not currently running full power. Now it's 0730z and Finland is totally dominant, HCJB audible weakly in the background (Paul Ormandy, New Zealand, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

HCJB-Australia 11755 good in Adelaide, South Australia at 0920, no sign of interference. Not as strong as previous night's broadcast via Ecuador however, though from this location I am probably within the first hop from the transmitter plus it is aimed in a different spot. ID as "The Voice of the Great South Land, HCJB Australia". (Richard Jary, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

5 Jan '03, HCJB-Australia inaugural broadcast on 11755: Nothin' was heard between 0700-0900; after 0900 faint signals but surprisingly good signals here in New Delhi for a 25 kW transmitter after 1000. Was able to hear with signal strength of 3-4 with no QRM. There was an interview with director of HCJB-Australia Mr David between 1000-1030 UT. After that regular Sunday programming with Christian music and devotional talks. Regds (Alokesh Gupta, New Delhi, India, EDXP via DXLD)

Hi, checked this at 0655-, no sign of HCJB at all here in Finland,

only very powerful audio from Radio Finland with echoing signals, also via the long path (this is a 500 kW unit) but at our local noon time at 1000 UT, Radio Finland's signal was decreasing a little bit and HCJB was tentatively heard with religious songs and talks about Sunday night. Very difficult to read the signal, maybe some other frequency will give better results. I wonder when are the local sunrise/sundown times at Kununurra? Rx: Palstar R-30 Ant: Wellbrook ALA-1530 73 (Jarmo Patala, Hyvinkää - Finland, hard-core-dx via DXLD)

Juat checked here, thought sign on was a bit later :-) Weak and noisy, nowhere near as good as the same ferq was from Ecuador last night with DX Partyline (Richard (Adelaide) Jary, UT Jan 5 0727, ARDXC via DXLD)

Finland started getting stronger as the introductions progressed here just north of Sydney. I was able to get most of the broadcast until about 0720 and Finland made it harder after that (Wayne Bastow, ibid.)

It's 0835 and it's booming in here in Blue Mountains NSW fighting with Finland (I guess). Sometimes it's heaps stronger than Finland, sometimes a touch weaker. Either way, it's a poor choice of frequency/time as far as listenability is concerned. 73 de (Jem Cullen, ibid.)

Listening to HCJB World Radio broadcasting from Kununurra in Western Australia on 11755 at 0655 with their first broadcast to the Pacific in English, reception was good at 0700 at 45444. By 0730 YLE Radio Finland was well and truly fading in causing moderate QRM at 43433. By 0800 and 0830 the situation was slightly worse at 43433 to 42432. With only 25 kilowatts of power from Kununurra, once Finland fades in with it's 500 kilowatts it seems to have an effect upon the signal. I do hope that this level of QRM does not continue for HCJB Australia's sake; otherwise an increase in power or a change of frequency may have to come about. How is reception in your area?? Just having a quick listen now at 0900 has revealed Finland fading a little to leave HCJB at 43433, certainly quite able to understand what is being said on their News (Michael Stevenson, Port Macquarie, N.S.W., Australia, Sangean ATS-909 with outdoor 15 metre longwire strung north/south, Jan 5, EDXP via DXLD)

I don't know why 11755 was retained for the Kununurra service at 0700-1100, as the channel has for many years been occupied by Radio Finland, well heard throughout Australia via long-path.

This is a further example of an inappropriate frequency selection, with the planning process hopelessly flawed by inadequate analysis of channel occupancy in the primary service area - in this case Australia and the Pacific.

Conversely, and this should be part of the process, the Australian transmission on 11755 would also be audible in Europe, via the same propagation path, causing disturbance to Finland in its primary coverage area.

HCJB ought now to select a better channel, free of other signals, and they can only do this by actually observing spectrum usage as actually monitored across Australia and the Pacific!

Prior to the start up of HCJB Australia, I had attempted unsuccessfully to contact someone/anyone in the Australian organization about the Finland clash, but no reply was ever received from several E-mails, FAXes, and telephone calls! In the end I gave up, completely exasperated.

I believe that they will run into further severe problems by attempting to use 15480 from 1230-1730 to Asia. Don't they know that 15480 is currently occupied by Voice of America, Philippines, 1300-1500, to the same target area, AND by Voice of Russia, Samara, 1300-1600, also to the same target area? Are these frequencies being merely selected at random? Again, has an analysis been made of actual monitored spectrum usage in the principal target area on 15480? (Bob Padula, Mont Albert, Victoria, Australia, Jan 5, EDXP via DXLD)

I don't know but from the results I read this morning (in the USA) it seems as if the people who choose frequencies for HCJB-Australia just don't have a clue about the best channel to reach the target audience! I guess they wanted to retain 11755 simply because that was the channel used for the last few years from the Pifo site. Now, they may have to look at a channel in the 11.55-11.7 range if they want to reach the desired target with such low power.

I myself had no luck trying for Kununurra earlier today: 0700 nothing heard; and before 1200 I had YLE-Finland with some audibility (a church service) on 11755... no trace of HCJB-AUS at all!

When will frequency managers finally get the idea that a clear frequency is the best option to reach distant areas via shortwave, not on a channel that has other stations using it --- whether they are targeting the same area as the station in question or not?

I'll tell you, now Havana is using 6195 (possibly to the Caribbean) after 0300 in Spanish, where BBCWS to Europe is very good at my location, and sometimes RHC can cause interference with BBC depending on propagation conditions (Joe Hanlon in Philadelphia, USA, Jan 5, EDXP via DXLD)

** AUSTRIA. [Historical item]. [see also under Germany]. And in

Austria - the American operated Blue Danube Network lists Salzburg 0.35 kW on 9617 and 5080 plus a MW network operating 0600-2400 in English. Then there was Sendergruppe Rot-Weiss-Rot (also in the American Zone) operating in German on 9562 with 10 kW (location could also be Salzburg) plus Vienna 755 100 kW, Linz 773 100 kW and Salzburg 1250 10 kW. In the French Zone there was Landessender Tirol using listed 6000 with 0.5 kW while in the USSR Zone there was RAVAG at Vienna using 7245 & 9665 both 0.3 kW. Their address says "Oeffentliche Verwalter fuer das oesterreichische Rundspruchwesen" but ID as "Hier is R Wien" so RAVAG may mean something else? The British had a station but for BFN and via three MW only (Graz & Klagenfurt 565 and Vienna 868). As said, I can remember hearing 5470 and 9617, but not the other frequencies on SW (Noel R. Green, UK, BC-DX Jan 2 via DXLD)

** BARBADOS. Barbados Advocate columnist thinks Barbados should have a shortwave station

HOW ABOUT DIFFERENT RADIO STATIONS?

Web Posted - Fri Jan 03 2003 Showtime Commentary By David Hinkson

EVERY now and again the Broadcasting Authority reveals whether there are new applications pending for radio stations in Barbados, but I haven't heard anything new in this regard lately. Is this confirmation that we probably have too many stations?

If so, that is a shame, really, because even though we have easy-listening stations (BBS and Love), youth-oriented stations (HOTT, Liberty and Mix), traditional stations (900 AM and VOB) and religious stations (Faith and Gospel 790) depending on the time of day you can hear the same music on practically all of them.

How about coming with something totally different? I think that jazz and classical music have enough of a following to generate advertising revenue for a specialised station, and in terms of local content there are enough local jazz musicians producing good material that can get some exposure on such a station.

Right now the only time we hear any real jazz on the radio is when the Jazz Festival is coming up, and as we all know not all of the featured performers are jazz musicians per se. With regard to classical music, we have enough of those musicians around as well, and what could also be useful would be highlighting the Youth Orchestra and the bands from our secondary schools. Steel pan music could also be highlighted here.

A news radio station could also be a good idea bringing news not just from Barbados but also from the region and the rest of the world. Along with local news programmes catering to all the aspects of news (sports, business, human interest and so on) we could also bring such

programmes from the region and from the BBC, especially if in the case of the latter they deal with major issues such as globalisation and the Gulf situation.

It might be useful to convert the station currently bringing broadcasts from Parliament (100.7 FM) to that purpose, and what could also be helpful is if programmes were brought where various parties discussed the day's proceedings in Parliament and the Senate, especially if a major matter was before the House, for example at Budget time or if major bills were being passed in one of the key sectors of the country's affairs. These shows can take the forms of both discussion and call-in programmes.

In the absence of such a station, however, I would hope that when and if the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) gets fully back onto its feet again, it can seriously look into this area, and as was once suggested by a former head of the Broadcast Authority, it might be good to put a news station on the short wave band so the region can truly have a voice on the world stage.

<http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/NewViewNewsleft.cfm?Record=11387>
(via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

** BELARUS`. The transmitter in Minsk on 6115 kHz has been reactivated for Belarusian Radio 1 (-1150- UT) // 6080 kHz. Contrary to info in certain DX lists, 6115 has been totally silent since the switch-off in early 2002. Another earlier key frequency for Belarusian Radio 1 in Minsk, 7210 kHz (which also was switched off in 2002), is remaining silent so far (Bernd Trutenau-LTU, 5 Jan, Cumbredx mailing list, via DXLD) So is the following really Belarus` transmitter? (gh)

RUSSIA. 6115, 0155-, R. ROSSII, Jan 4 Test tones till toh then stopped. To time 5 pips, then to short IS and male announcer with ID as R. Rossii in Russian. Then to possible news items in Russian. Signal level at S8 but rapid fades. Nice clear signal till 0206 when some side splatter started but mostly audible (Bob Montgomery, Levittown, PA USA, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

BELARUS` STOPS RE-BROADCAST OF RUSSIAN RADIO |
Text of report by Belarusian news agency Belapan

Minsk, 3 January: The re-broadcasting of Russian FM radio stations Mayak, Golos Rossii and Yunost will be stopped, according to a press release from the Belarusian Radio and TV Broadcasting Company. The decision was adopted due to "the development of regional radio broadcasting and expanded broadcasting by the radio station Stalitsa". Transmitters that were used to re-broadcast Mayak and Golos Rossii will be assigned to Stalitsa, while transmitters that relayed Yunost will be broadcasting a regional radio station.

"Re-broadcasting of these radio stations was previously financed from the Belarusian state budget. This is no longer possible due to the shortage of budgetary funds. Russian radio stations should themselves take care of rebroadcasting their programmes in Belarus by concluding contracts with the Ministry of Communications," the press release says. Source: Belapan news agency, Minsk, in Belarusian 1850 gmt 3 Jan 03 (via BBCM via DXLD)

NO RUSSIAN RADIO IN BELARUS - DEPUTY MINISTER |
Excerpt from report by Belarusian news agency Belapan

Minsk, 4 January: Regional broadcasting will be expanded in Belarus in 2003. "I cannot say anything about TV channels, but radio stations will be opened in all regional capitals and Minsk," Deputy Minister of Information Syarhey Bulatski has told Belapan. He also said that a TV channel similar to Russia's Kultura will be created.

Bulatski pointed out that the concept of the operation of Russian radio stations in Belarus will undergo change. "There will be absolutely no Russian radio stations. If a Russian radio station sets up shop in Belarus, it will have to carry from 30 to 50 per cent of local content," Bulatski said.

[Passage omitted: details of potential Russian, Belarusian media projects]

[Belarusian state radio and TV recently announced that three Russian radio stations would no longer be re-broadcast in Belarus. See Belapan news agency, Minsk, in Belarusian 1850 gmt 3 Jan 03] Source: Belapan news agency, Minsk, in Belarusian 1320 gmt 4 Jan 03 (via BBCM via DXLD)

** BOLIVIA. R. Nacional de Huanuni, Dec 31, 0540-0656 on 5964.77 kHz, the station made a special extended transmission, playing much folklore music (cuecca, sanjuanito, etc). (Shoji YAMADA, Tokyo, Japan, RNM, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** BRAZIL. I heard a station today 4 Jan UT at 0415 on 4935 and I can't figure out who it was. Male announcer in Spanish with talk radio format until 0435 then possible ID (which I can't make out) and into music with a different male announcer. I have a Windows Media File at <http://dybka.home.mindspring.com/jill/radio/4935.wma> If someone is curious and can figure out who this is :) Thanks (Jilly Dybka, TN, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

It's R. Capixaba, Brasil, in Portuguese, not Spanish. ID can be heard at 1:05 into the file. Apparently is 24 hours, 1 kW (Glenn Hauser, OK,

Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** CUBA. Trying to reconfirm times and frequencies for En Contacto, RHC's Spanish DX program. The website <http://www.radiohc.cu> lists it on Sundays at 1335-1350 and UT Mondays 0135-0150 when I have not yet checked. I did hear it at a time missing from the posted schedule, but when it used to be on and no doubt has been for years, Sun 2155 UT or so Jan 5, tuned in at 2203 to the end of a feature on R. Venceremos, El Salvador. Later Arnie Coro phoned in a propagation report, ended at 2210. The only frequency I could find this on was 15230, not on any other listed or unlisted Habana frequencies. I suppose they don't bother to mention this timing since is part of a magazine Revista Iberoamericana --- but that's no excuse (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CUBA. From a story about James Cason, new head of the US Interests Section:

He has continued the controversial radio giveaway program that earned his predecessor, Vicki Huddleston, the nickname "radio ambassador." In the past four months he and his staff have handed out about 2,000 Chinese-made short-wave receivers to Cubans, an initiative meant to increase access to foreign stations, especially Radio Marti, the federally funded, Miami-based station generally blocked by the Cuban government.

Castro has denounced the initiative as meddling and subversive, claiming it violates Cuba's sovereignty. Cason counters that U.S. embassies give away radios in many countries and that Radio Marti is not programmed or marked on the dial. "Isn't this an irony?" Cason said. "The world's largest communist country is making a radio that Cuba is afraid of."

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/cuba/sfl-hbauza05jan05,0,1277527.column?coll=sfla-news-cuba>

(via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

** CYPRUS TURKISH. 6150, R. Bayrak Int'l, 2202 Jan 3. Presumed them with rock music after China off. Have heard the Baby Love by the Supremes mentioned by George Maroti and Steve Lare, but tonight they had Smooth by Rob Thomas and Santana on at 2207. They were actually strong enough that I could tune them in on 6148.5 to avoid going to LSB. By 2215 they were hard to hear even on LSB. This during a snowstorm with about 5" on the ground as I listened (John Sgrulletta, Mahopac, NY, USA JRC NRD-515/K9AY & A/D Sloper, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

6150, Bayrak Radio International, 2156-2212 Jan 3. Jazz music after CRI signed off, then brief talk by OM. Some more jazz, then an ID in English by the OM, mentioning shortwave. Rap style jingle ID,

("Bayrak, Bayrak, Bayrak International"), then some rap and soul music. Santana's "Smooth" at 2207. Signal faded out by 2212, but SINPO was 33333, with S8 signal strength at tune-in. Modulation was weak however (George Maroti New York, Drake R8B, K9AY loop, 100 foot T2FD, 45 meter long dipole, 150 foot LW fed by coax and noise reducing impedance matching transformer, EDXP via DXLD)

** CZECH REPUBLIC [non]. 8963, 0218-, R.P PRAGUE, Jan 4, English broadcast which I found // 6200 in USB format. Strange but was clearly in USB on this freq. IS heard at 0227 with ID at that time on both frequencies. Poor audio quality in USB format but was audible. Have never noticed this before. IS and ID by female heard again at 0230 with email address (Bob Montgomery, PA, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** DJIBOUTI. DESTITUTE DJIBOUTI PINES FOR U.S. AID --- PLENTY OF MONEY ALLOTTED TO FIGHT TERROR, LITTLE TO BOOST ECONOMY, RESIDENTS SAY
Mark Fineman, Los Angeles Times Saturday, December 28, 2002

Djibouti -- Just beyond the barbed-wire berms and guard posts that mask the U.S. military's secretive special operations base, past a cratered road strewn with scrap heaps and human waste, Kadija Omar expects the Americans to deliver....
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2002/12/28/MN108493.DTL>
(via San Francisco Chronicle, via Jilly Dybka, NASWA Flashsheet via DXLD) Mentions upcoming 'VOA' station

** ECUADOR. I continue to be awed by the odd pronunciation guesses by Jeff Ingram, who is entrusted with reading so much material for DX Partyline. Doesn't anyone at HCJB notice or care? On the Jan 4 show, he read Christer Brunström's monthly Christian radio feature, this time about World Harvest Radio. He must never have heard this fellow Christian broadcaster, since he pronounced LeSea ``Lacey``; Marie Lamb became Mary; and Joe Brashier, ``Brashler`` (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** FRANCE. re: ``Even France Inter stopped broadcasting across France on longwave in 1997.``

Sic, must read mediumwave; frequencies were amongst the ones just put on tender (675, 1071, 1161, 1350). Longwave 162 is still in use of course. And the longwave stations operating from Monaco, Luxembourg and Saarland are not really foreign ones, just let me mention the term "peripheral stations". (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GERMANY. 6085, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich ñ Ismaning, Jan 2, 3 and 4, *0500-0515 German, opening without I/S, but straight on with TA

and ID: ``Es ist sechs Uhr. B5 Aktuell --- Das Informations Radio``, news from Bayern 5 Aktuell including information on severe flooding and road conditions. SINPO 44434. Also heard Jan 2, 3 & 5, 1920-2300*, also B5 programming. 43443 QRM Deutsche Welle in German 6075 and Deutsche Welle in Chinese 6090. The Ismaning carrier was off between 2300 and 0500, thus the Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk programs are no longer relayed at night! Instead these stations were noted here in Denmark on 6085: WYFR Family R in English 0000-0100, VoIRI Tehran in Bengali 0030-0130, 0050-0200 tentative Krasnoyarsk in Russian (ex 5290), and *0200-0220 R Oman strong with readings in Arabic from the Qur'an. Best 73, (Anker Petersen, Denmark, Jan 5, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GERMANY. 1953 history: You may remember I mentioned AFN Germany using SW - part of my "voyage of re-discovery" is that in 1953 Bayreuth is listed on 5470 kc/s 55.03 m 0.35 kW operating 0500-2400. The MW outlet for Bayreuth was 665 with 10 kW. This town did not have an AFN studio, so what the purpose of 5470 was I cannot guess.

You might also be interested to know that Frankfurt had 6190 1.2 kW - the NWDR had lost its SW to a foreign service -- see under future plans: The German Foreign Service on SW from NWDR will probably start its service in the course of January (1954) . The programs will be beamed to five areas on the seven SW frequencies used by NWDR - another 20 kW station under construction in Norden-Osterloog.

7290 & 11795 were listed as either 20 kW or 0.4 kW. 6270 with 0.4 kW and 0.35 kW on 9735 15275 17815 & 17845. Some of those seem very familiar to this day!

Suedwestfunk Baden-Baden had 6320 1 kW - Muehlacker had 6030 20 kW and RIAS Berlin Britz 6005 20 kW.

The GDR had a list of stations but not their frequencies - they were shown separately. SW were 6115 7150 (used for Berlin I) and 9730 (used for Berlin III). The address was at Nalepastrasse 18-50 in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide.

I think that must be the end of today's History of Radio lesson! It's difficult to close an old WRTH once it has been opened. The 1953 edition had 136 pages and cost 10 shillings and 6 pence in old British currency, 55 pence in the new. I think around 0.75 Euro [I'm not sure how to express that properly - is it 75 cents?] (Noel R. Green, UK, BC-DX Jan 2 via DXLD) see also AUSTRIA

** GERMANY EAST. PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS TO US TROOPS

Glenn, A recent contributor wrote about hearing "Professor Lobo" broadcasting to the American armed forces. I can confirm that these

broadcasts, on the air from around 1961-68, came from East Germany and were broadcast under the title "O.P.S. Berlin" (a nice military title, don't you think!). These transmissions went out nightly for half an hour from 2200 or 2300 UT on mediumwave and two or three shortwave frequencies. I think the MW frequency was 1421 kHz, a frequency used by Danmarks Radio until about 2210. Both signals were heard in southern England at about equal strength until the Danish station closed down, after which O.P.S. was well received.

The shortwave transmissions were on the 6 and 7 MHz band (nearly 40 years after, I am a bit vague about the details). The opening announcement for O.P.S was: "This is O.P.S Berlin, the programme that entertains and informs. We broadcast nightly for Americans in West Germany and Europe." The O.P.S. programme went out as the final broadcast of the night on Radio Berlin International's European service. RBI did not list it in their English schedule and O.P.S did not often reveal that it was part of RBI, although it did mention that fact occasionally.

I was first alerted to its existence when I saw it listed as a "clandestine station" in the bulletin of the Danish Shortwave Clubs International, although it was not a true clandestine in the sense of other stations emanating from East Germany, such as Deutsche Freiheitssender, Deutsche Soldatensender and Bizim Radio (beamed to Turkey). Actually, its style reminded me of tapes I had heard of Nazi wartime broadcasts to Allied troops, except that it was smoother and the politics were very different.

Professor Lobo spoke with a deep African-American accent and came across as the wise guy who knew the answer to every problem. Most of the records played were by black artists, creating the impression that black servicemen were the main target. There were sometimes very subtle suggestions, in speech and music, that listeners might consider defecting to East Germany. Between items there was relaxed banter between Lobo and a female announcer. The news bulletins, which were different to those of mainstream RBI, frequently juxtaposed items about Vietnam and racial oppression in the US in order to establish a psychological connection between the two problems.

The people behind this effort were well versed in propaganda techniques! I think I heard some of the voices from O.P.S. a few years later on Radio Habana Cuba.

O.P.S. was not heard (at least by me) after 1968, when its mediumwave frequency was taken over, during the invasion of Czechoslovakia, by an East German "black" clandestine station broadcasting in Czech ("Very bad Czech", according to a comment I heard on Radio Free Prague).

Another interesting fact: O.P.S. used an address in Berlin W8, which listeners probably thought was in West Berlin; in fact it was in the eastern part of the city. Every weekend O.P.S. broadcast a radio play entitled "Conspiracy of Silence", designed to expose real or imaginary Nazis holding high positions in West Germany. I remember that the closing announcement for the feature said something like (referring to the alleged Nazis) that "whether you wear the uniform of the armed forces or civilian clothes, whether you are coloured or white, you should know that these inhuman criminals are at liberty in the so-called Free World".

And a final note: Britain's leading expert on radio warfare, Sefton Delmer, wrote about the station in his autobiography: "Nearer home the Soviet Germans in East Berlin have been broadcasting a counterfeit of the US forces' radio to the American troops involved in the dispute over Ulbricht's Berlin wall....(they) can even chalk up one small success for this operation. They forced the American troops to abandon their amiable habit of wearing their names on their uniforms. For Communist spies copied the names and the radio men then used them to embellish stories in the broadcasts of their counterfeit radio just as we would have used the names of German officers on Calais or Gustav Siegfried Eins during the war.

They were less happy in their choice of a theme song for the station. Whether they knew it or not, the tune the Soviet Germans and their American Communist radio men were playing to introduce their broadcast was that of 'Don't fence me in...!', a somewhat double-edged jest for the defenders of Ulbricht's wall." (Source: Black Boomerang, Secker and Warburg (London), 1962, pages 296-297). (Roger Tidy, UK, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

**** GERMANY EAST. Re WWII propaganda stations:**

1430 OPS - Out-Post-Station. OPS - Out-Post-Station was a special service from RBI-GDR Radio towards US soldiers serving in West Berlin and Western Europe. Started service on August 25, 1961 as "Berlin Island Station".

Renamed from August 26, 1961, on air till Januar 1972 as "Out Post Station". RBI MW frequencies at this time span: 1133, 1430, or 1511 kHz. But OPS used 1430 kHz from 1961, and some SW broadcasts also, like 6080 7185 7300 9730, not 6115; from 1968: 6080 6115 7185, and 9730. All at 2300-2330 UT.

Also a small FM transmitter was on air in East Berlin-GDR on UKW 98.6? MHz, targeted towards the American Sector of (West) Berlin. In German "IHRF Handbook 1965/1966" also a noon service at 1100 UT was mentioned on 1430 kHz.

"This is OPS Berlin, the program which entertains and informs. We broadcast nightly to Americans in West Germany and Europe." And after a transmitter switching procedure from 1430 to 1511 kHz of 15 minutes, a similar program in French language registered:

MW 1511 kHz 198.5 mb 2345-0015 UT "Cette nuit à Berlin"
SW 6080 6115 7300 9730
73 wb (Wolfgang B, schel, Germany West, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GUAM. 9465 kHz, KTWR, 1200 Dec 29 with IS then into JP. Was awaiting the English part of the Japan SW Club broadcast. At 1214 there was one sentence spoken in EG but then a number of people were all talking at once. Then at 1220 a male talking about the history of the JSWC interrupted the program. Just as they started an interview with Toshi Ohtake on his trip to "last week's Winterfest" the transmission cut back in mid-sentence to JP. Either poor editing or transmitter troubles due to the Super Typhoon. Signal strength was good but much noise that appeared on the channel only after the broadcast started (John Sgrulletta, NY, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** GUAM. KTWR update --- retraction of an earlier report.

Hello to the group, I went back to KTWR and decided to check on something. Seemed I saw something on a picture I took and it didn't look right. Turned out my feelings were right. KTWR did sustain some damage to two of its antennas and it was quite a shock as I hadn't noticed it before. I thought it had gone untouched. As I was standing there in the path to take a picture, one of the station engineers, NH2CW, called to me to come get a closer look at the station, plus I was given the chance to view inside the transmitter room in which he was just about to throw the switch. This was at 1730 local time [0730 UT]. The antennas sustained an estimated damage of 1/2 million dollars, but fortunately the towers were unharmed. So I hope it gives a better idea here. Sorry for the confusion but I hope it helps out.

I know that many of you are also wondering about the hams here, and if you read the article by KF6ILA, then you will notice many are fine and well. I think that if any of you have any extra antennas you don't need and may want to donate to the club here. It would be helpful. There are no radio stores here for 5000 miles (73's from Guam this is Larry Fields, n6hpx/du1, Jan 5, swl via DXLD)

** INDIA. For the last couple of days AIR Aligarh is noted testing their new 250 KW transmitter on 9470 at various times: e.g. 0200, 1100 etc. (Note: 9470 is also used by Delhi at 1350-0043 for National Service now but the new Aligarh transmitters will take over this transmission once their tests are over.) Another new transmitter of

250 kw will also be tested by Aligarh very soon. There are four old transmitters of 250 kw at Aligarh site and these 2 new transmitters replace two of them. 73 (Jose Jacob, Jan 4, dx_india via DXLD)

The schedule of test transmissions from the new 250 kW of AIR Aligarh is as follows: 9470 0130-0530, 0930-1230. It relays AIR FM II programs from Delhi in Hindi & English. Parallel frequency is 9425 Bangalore 500 kW which is also testing (Jose Jacob, Jan 5, ibid.)

** INTERNATIONAL VACUUM. The rest of the story: the new DW airings on WRN replace SRI (Kevin A. Kelly, MA, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INTERNATIONAL VACUUM [non]. PROMINENT RADIO ASTRONOMER DIES HERE IN TASMANIA

You probably have heard about this and I have met hams who knew him but I personally never met him. He mainly kept to himself although he constructed a huge long-wave antenna for radio astronomy. Yes, that is right, he used to map the sky on LW! When he started it was electrically quiet but the HT lines from the Electricity grid made it difficult.

He lived in the sparsely populated Central Highlands near Bothwell/Ouse and as the article below says lived here since 1954 but he periodically returned to the States. Grote, as far as I am aware, never took out a VK7 callsign, although he was instrumental in the Tasmanian University getting involved in radio astronomy.

Remember the film "Contact" with Jodie Foster? In the credits they acknowledged the pioneering work of Grote and inspiration for the film. Ironically, the film was shown on the local TV channel just a few weeks prior to his death. The majority of Tasmanians were unaware that he lived here. Grote died on December 20th at the Ellendale Multipurpose Health Centre and it was not publicly announced until the 28th (Robin L. Harwood, VK7RH/ Editor, ``Spotlight on SWling", Norwood, Tasmania, Jan 4, swl via DXLD) ++++++

He was one of those radio pioneers I would love to have met
INTERNATIONAL SILENT KEYS: RADIO ASTRONOMY PIONEER GROTE REBER, EX-W9GFZ, SK

Grote Reber, ex-W9GFZ, one of the earliest pioneers of radio astronomy, died December 20 in VK7 Tasmania, where he had been living since 1954. He was 90.

Reber was the first person to build a radio telescope dedicated to astronomy, and his self-financed experiments laid the foundation for today's advanced radio astronomy facilities.

"All radio astronomers who have followed him owe Grote Reber a deep debt for his pioneering work," said National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) Director Fred Lo. Reber was the first to systematically study the sky by observing something other than visible light. "This gave astronomy a whole new view of the universe," Lo said.

Reber constructed a parabolic dish antenna in 1937, using his own funds, a nine-meter (31.4 feet) dish antenna in his backyard. The strange contraption attracted the attention of curious neighbours and became somewhat of a minor tourist attraction, he later recalled.

In 1941, Reber produced the first radio map of the sky, based on a series of systematic observations.

Reber's research results were published in a number of prestigious technical journals. He also received numerous honours normally reserved for scientists professionally trained in astronomy. Ohio State University conferred an honorary doctorate on Reber on 1962.

In a 1977 paper, "Endless, Boundless, Stable Universe"
http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/galaxy/G_Reber.html Reber concluded:

"Time is merely a sequence of events. There is no beginning nor ending. The material universe extends beyond the greatest distances we can observe optically or by radio means. It is boundless."

Reber's amateur call sign, W9GFZ, now is held by the NRAO Amateur Radio Club in Socorro, New Mexico (written text NRAO news release by Dave Finley, N1IRZ; Tom Crowley, KT4XN via the arrl letter. Audio thanks to SPECTRUM TASMANIA.) (via Robin Harwood, DXLD)

**** IRAN. FINES FOR VIOLATORS OF SATELLITE DISH CODE**
From <http://www.tehrantimes.com> Wednesday, January 01, 2003

The Majlis on Sunday set an amount of cash fines for importers, dealers, and owners of illegal satellite dish equipment.

The deputies approved a bill stipulating that the equipment will be confiscated and illegal importers and distributors of such equipment will be required to pay a total cash fine of 10 to 100 million rials (U.S.\$1,250 to 12,500).

Also, owners of unauthorized satellite facilities will be required to pay a fine of one to three million rials (U.S.\$125 to 375). (via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** IRAN [non]. The press service of SANAM also says that the first independent radio of Southern Azerbaijanis "Voice of South Azerbaijan Radio" will be broadcasted in near future. The radio will broadcast programmes directed towards South Azerbaijan, beginning the first week of January. The radio-programmes to be broadcasted twice a week (Baku Today via Jilly Dybka, NASWA Flashsheet via DXLD) WTFK??

** KOREA NORTH. The webmaster of this country's official and only website, <http://www.korea-dpr.com> --- Alejandro Cao de Benos, who is in Spain, was interviewed on NPR Weekend Edition Saturday Jan 4: <http://www.npr.org/ramfiles/wesat/20030104.wesat.03.ram> Site features the cult of personality of the Leaders, includes some links to nice stereo music, as long as we can't understand the lyrics. P'yongyang is truly a winter wonderland (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** KOREA NORTH [non]. Foreign correspondent, now Ohio University professor, wants RFA Korean on MW to North Korea Also helpful, he said, would be to begin broadcasting "real, solid, impartial news" via Radio Free Asia into North Korea on the AM band rather than shortwave, seeing as very few North Koreans own shortwave radios. Though the United States has said it hasn't been able to get permission from neighboring countries for radio towers, Martin scoffed at this excuse. "If you can arrange wars, surely you can arrange signal towers," he said. http://www.athensnews.com/issue/article.php3?story_id=11121 (via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

Also says acting president Bush should withdraw NK from the Axis of Evil club --- doing that set off Dear Leader's fear he's next for US military action, and consequent escalation (gh, DXLD)

** LIBERIA. 5470 R. Veritas, 0602-0635 01/04 English. Hi-life music followed by ID ``Radio Veritas from ..(?).. center with news, entertainment and spiritual programs. Today is January 4, 2003; Welcome``. Continuous Up-beat/reggae-like music with religious themes until 0623 when announcement for ``brothers and sisters`` and meeting reminder for ``council members`` at 9 and 11 AM. More music and ID ``Radio Veritas; your friendly station`` at 0632. Good, strong signal; much better than 11/03/2002 when I last heard them (Scott R. Barbour, Jr., Intervale, NH, Sangean ATS 818, RF Systems MLB-1 kit; RS longwire kit & RBA-1 balun, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

5469.97, Radio Veritas, 0604 Jan 5. Religious service, prayer "Glory be to the father and to the spirit", scripture reading from Ezekiel, African gospel music, ID @ 0613, schedule, another ID @ 0614, program "Sunday Messages" about Biblical readings, this edition "The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord" (Ralph Brandi, NJ, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

5470, R. Veritas, 0722 Jan 5, English commentary on "complimentary health care systems and then into Bing Crosby vocals (don't tempt me in ?) for 10 secs and then "you have been listening to.. Radio Veritas, weak but intelligible (David Norrie, Bucklands Beach, Auckland, NZ, AOR 7030, hard-core DX via DXLD)

** MADAGASCAR 5010 Radio Madagascar 0301 sign-on Jan 5, Malagasy national anthem --- matches anthem at <http://www.countryreports.org/sounds/madagasc.mid> --- talk in Malagasy with mentions of Madagascar and possible ID, Malagasy pop music; faded out by 0330 (Ralph Brandi, NJ, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** MEXICO. Note especially the sections on IBOC, and on shortwave.

FOX Y LOS RADIODIFUSORES: La CIRT acepta renovaci n legal
Fernando Mej a Barquera

Tras cuatro a os de discursos repetitivos y previsibles en los cuales el presidente Zedillo se volvi  monot mico al pedir a los radiodifusores que se ``autorregulen`` pues  l, seg n advirti , no promover a reforma alguna en materia de medios electr nicos, la Semana Nacional de Radio y Televisi n que organiza la CIRT tuvo por fin motivo de inter s: la presencia de Vicente Fox como invitado especial en una cena con los empresarios radiof nicos y de tv el 6 de octubre en el ex convento de San Hip lito. Hab a la expectativa de conocer las posturas del Presidente electo y los radiodifusores sobre un tema que se espera relevante en el sexenio foxista: la probable reforma a la legislaci n sobre medios electr nicos.

Tanto Fox como los radiodifusores mostraron s lo algunas de sus cartas, como esperando que la contraparte muestre m s claramente sus intenciones en los pr ximos meses. La CIRT, a trav s de un discurso enviado por su presidente, Joaqu n Vargas Guajardo *quien no estuvo en el encuentro con Fox debido, seg n se supo, a problemas familiares*, acept  que ``la legislaci n a todas luces debe ser modificada``, pero sostuvo que ninguna reforma deber  hacerse sin la participaci n de los concesionarios: ``Los empresarios de radio y televisi n *dijo* tenemos mucho que aportar, por lo que tampoco concebimos la modificaci n del marco jur dico actual sin tener en cuenta nuestras opiniones``. Finalmente dej  claro el rechazo de los radiodifusores a la propuesta que diversos grupos, partidos y personas han manejado en el sentido de que se constituya un organismo de car cter aut nomo *un consejo o comisi n* que tenga facultades decisorias en la funci n de otorgar concesiones de radio y TV: ``Estamos en desacuerdo *expuso Vargas* en que esas facultades se trasladen a un grupo determinado sin haber explicado previamente y con absoluta claridad los prop sitos y alcances, sus normas de actuaci n y sus respectivos controles``. Y remat : ``Ni para el otorgamiento de las concesiones ni para los

refrendos debe someterse a los concesionarios a presiones o chantajes``.

Por su parte, Vicente Fox prefiri  dar una imagen conciliatoria y afirm  que ``el gobierno de la Rep blica habr  de acudir al di logo para llegar a acuerdos; las transformaciones se deber n tener con la participaci n de la CIRT (y) tambi n con los usuarios``. El punto de partida en el probable proceso de reforma a la legislaci n sobre medios electr nicos parece estar claro. Los concesionarios estar an dispuestos a ``aceptar`` modificaciones a la ley pero condicion ndola a: 1) que por ning n motivo se les margine del proceso; 2) que la forma de otorgar o revocar concesiones permanezca inalterada o, en su caso, tenga alteraciones m nimas. La pregunta es:  cules ser an las modificaciones a la ley que los concesionarios s  aceptar an?

RADIO DIGITAL EN M XICO

Una de las actividades m s interesantes y menos atendidas por los medios dentro de la 42 Semana Nacional de Radio y Televisi n fue la presencia de representantes del consorcio iBiquity Digital para ofrecer a los radiodifusores mexicanos informaci n sobre el avance en Estados Unidos del sistema de radio digital llamado IBOC (In Band OnChannel). La radio digital permite recibir se ales de audio con ``calidad compact disc`` y ser  de uso cotidiano en el siglo XXI sustituyendo a las actuales transmisiones ``anal gicas``. En el mundo hay actualmente dos tipos de tecnolog a en materia de radio digital: las que exigen emplear frecuencias distintas a las habituales de AM y FM, y las que tienen precisamente como objetivo difundir se ales digitales dentro de estos par metros, es decir, en la banda de 535 a 1605 kilohertz para el caso de AM y de 88 a 108 megahertz en el de FM. Todas ellas est n en proceso de experimentaci n. En EU se ha desarrollado el sistema IBOC que ofrece la ventaja de transmitir audio digital a trav s de AM y FM, e iBiquity Digital es la empresa que encabeza el esfuerzo por convencer a la Comisi n Federal de Comunicaciones de Estados Unidos (FCC) para que ese sistema sea aceptado como norma t cnica o ``est ndar`` para las transmisiones de radio digital en ese pa s. El consorcio iBiquity se cre  en julio de este a o y es resultado de la alianza entre dos empresas: Luncent Digital Radio y USA Digital Radio. Entre las empresas que apoyan la adopci n del sistema IBOC como ``est ndar`` para las transmisiones digitales en Estados Unidos est n 15 de las m s importantes cadenas de radio en esa naci n, as  como importantes empresas fabricantes de equipo y dise o de tecnolog a, entre ellas la cadena ABC, Clear Channel Communications *que, por cierto, tiene inversi n en M xico dentro del Grupo ACIR*, Cox Radio, Hispanic Corporation y Harris Corporation (esta  ltima la productora de equipo m s importante de Estados Unidos). Para iBiquity acercarse a la C mara Nacional de la Industria de Radio y Televisi n *que agrupa a los concesionarios de 747 estaciones de AM y 377 de FM* es estrat gico, pues ser a un

extraordinario alia do para impulsar la adopci n del sistema IBOC para las transmisiones de radio di gital en M xico, un merca do muy atractivo en t rminos de compra de tecnolog a y de equipo.

CUCO S NCHEZ

Figura en la  poca dorada de la radio *1940 a 1960* y gran vendedor de discos aun en la actualidad, Cu co S nchez (Jos  del Refugio S nchez Salda a), creador del blues mexicano, como lo defini  en alguna ocasi n Parm nides Garc a Salda a, falleci  el 5 de octubre. Nacido en Altamira, Tamaulipas, el 3 de mayo de 1921, Cuco debut  en la XEW como compositor y cancionero en 1940. Aunque no coloc  en las listas de popularidad tan tas canciones como, por ejemplo, Jos  Alfredo Jim nez, s  hizo llegar al hit parade mexicano melo d as que han devenido cl sicas como ``Fallaste coraz n`` (1954), ``Gr tenme piedras del campo`` (primer lu gar de popularidad en junio de 1956), ``La cama de piedra`` (primer lugar en enero de 1957) y ``No soy monedita de oro`` (1958), adem s de otros grandes  xitos radiof nicos y dis cogr ficos como ``El mil amores``, ``Nube pasajera``, ``Qu  manera de perder`` y, por supuesto, ``Anillo de compromiso``.

ONDA CORTA

Uno de los temas casi olvidados en el  mbito de la radio es el de la onda cor ta. Durante el encuentro de diexistas mexicanos (es decir, la gente que escucha onda corta), celebrado en Oaxaca en agosto, se conoci  una interesante estad stica elaborada por el doctor Juli n de Santiago y el ingeniero H ctor Garc a Bojorge, del grupo Encuentro DX. En M xico existen autorizadas 17 estaciones de onda corta, de las cuales s lo cuatro funcionan regularmente, tres lo hacen de manera ocasional y las diez restantes permanecen inactivas. Las que funcionan con regularidad son: XEOI, Radio Mil (6010 khz); XEPPM, Radio Educaci n (6185 khz); XERMX, Radio M xico Internacional, del IMER (5985 y 9705 khz) y Radio Huayacocotla (2390 khz). Las que transmiten una temporada s  y otra no son: XERTA, Radio Transcontinental de Am rica, concesionada a Roberto N jera Mart nez (4800 khz) en el DF; XEYU, Radio UNAM (9600 khz), y XEQM, Candela, una estaci n concesionada al grupo RASA en M rida (6105 khz). Las que de plano han dejado de transmitir son: XEQK, del IMER (9555 khz); XEQQ de Televisa Radio (9680 khz); la hist rica XEWW (con tres frecuencias: 6165, 9515 y 15160 khz), tambi n de Televisa; XEUJ, Radio Linares, del Patronato Cultural de Linares, Nuevo Le n; XEXQ, Radio Universidad de San Luis Potos  (6045 khz); XEBR, La in vasora (11820 khz), del grupo MVS en Hermosillo, Sonora; XEUDS, Radio Universidad de Sonora (6115 khz); XECMT, Radio Fes tival (6090) de Ciudad Mante, concesionada a Organizaci n Radiof nica Tamaulipeca; XEFT, La jarocho (9545 khz), controlada por el grupo FIRMESA en Veracruz; y XEUW (6020 khz) El eco de Sotavento, bajo control del grupo RASA en Veracruz. Mientras en otros pa ses la radio de onda corta sigue siendo un recurso importante para la comunicaci n nacional e internacional, en M xico hay

frecuencias ya asignadas que no transmiten. Los concesionarios que están desperdiciando ese recurso y la Secretaría de Comunicaciones que permite ese dispendio tendrían que decir algo al respecto.

RADIO EN RED

Es intención de esta columna, en cada una de sus entregas, proporcionar al lector un pequeño tip acerca de sitios de Internet que proveen información sobre radio o difunden audio con formatos radiofónicos en la red. La primera que señalamos es <http://www.mexicoradiotv.com> página elaborada por Fred Cantu (así, sin acento) un periodista chicano, reportero de la televisora KVUE de Austin, Texas. Es una página útil porque reúne las direcciones de los grupos radiofónicos mexicanos que tienen presencia en Internet, de las dependencias e instituciones privadas que participan en la actividad radiofónica, así como ligas con sitios vinculados a la radio en diversos países. <http://www.etcetera.com.mx/3.asp> (via TK Wood, Alexandria USA, DXLD)

** MEXICO. According to a reply from Grupo ACIR Puebla, they have 3 AM stations: XEPOP (1120), XEHR (1090), XEPUE (1210), and 3 FM stations: XHNP "La Grupera" (89.3), XHJE "Mas 94" (94.1), XHRH "La Romántica" (103.3). (Shoji YAMADA, Tokyo, Japan, RNM, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NEWFOUNDLAND. 2 more stations I am looking for. VOXM 590 and CKVO 710. I heard several rumours about VOXM not QSL-ing, and other rumours who said that occasionally some people did receive VOXM QSLs. I can't find the address from CKVO, but it seems to be a sister station of VOXM, so I am afraid this one will be difficult too.

So, any info about these stations, like QSL-address and if anyone received a QSL from them recently will be appreciated. Maybe there is an DX-club in New Foundland or an active DX-er that can do something to stimulate QSLing there..... MERRY XMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!

"Dx-ing from the car out in the field" Located in East-Holland, using AOR AR7030plus and fixed beverages: 160m towards Africa and 450m 2-wire beverage for Asia/S. America Specialized in antennas and (low-band) broadcast DX (Dick van der Knaap, Dec 24, dxing.info via DXLD)

VOXM has always been a poor verifier. Since they simulcast their programmes via Internet they stopped QSLing completely.

In 99 I just got an e-Mail-QSL for a follow-up for a report from 1996, because that covered a reception done before they started streaming.

Harold Steele harold.steele@voxm.com wrote: "Because VOXM and Magic-97 have real audio on the WWW, we do not make it a point to answer QSL reception reports." Several reports before remained unanswered.

But who knows, these policies are not made for eternity, and perhaps you can persuade them to QSL. Address is in the WRTM. Greetings, (Martin Elbe, Germany, *ibid.*)

There is more than one reason why stations like VQCM stop answering QSL requests. Until September 2002 I lived in St. John's, Newfoundland, and I visited VQCM on a number of occasions. VQCM is a first-rate company with a very high reputation in Newfoundland. It is easily the most popular station on MW in St. John's. It is heard regularly by DXers in Europe (although it is a tough catch for North American DXers outside of the Atlantic region). Consequently, it receives many reception reports from European DXers.

About 10 years ago, prompted by appeals from a number of QSL-hunters, I took up the issue of reception reports with the engineer at VQCM. He used to reply to the reports from time to time. He showed me the accumulated stack of reception reports, which must have numbered at least 100. I looked through them, and in my opinion there were less than 10 that were worth a reply. There were a few cases of obvious fraud. For instance, one listener in California (the only letter from the US) claimed reception at a time that was just after noon in St. John's. However, the majority of letters from DXers were boring, rude or fragmentary. I would not have believed that someone capable of picking up a transatlantic signal would waste stamps on a form letter with ``I heard your station. Send me your QSL card.`` But there were many of these. Isn't it written all over the place that for local stations you should use local time, do not use SINPO, and clearly state your evidence for hearing the station? It is no exaggeration to say that more than half of the reception reports had no real programming details at all. Also, many reports were written on ``Report Forms`` that had been generated either by the DXer or by a DX club. Is there anything more boring to read?

On a happier note, there were three or four really excellent reports. These contained all of the required elements of date, time, frequency, reception quality and programming details, plus they were interesting for a non-DXer to read! All of these reports came from Finland. The engineer, who I should say died of cancer about three years ago, answered these reports with QSL letters. (I don't know the present engineer.)

So what is the moral of the story? Commercial stations that receive lots of reception reports fall into two QSLing categories. The first category will QSL almost everything as a public relations gesture. (Nowadays, E-mail QSLs cost nothing.) Such QSLs are obviously not worth much as confirmation of reception, although I will acknowledge that a nice card or a letter on good paper might be a decent souvenir.

The second category, which includes VOXM and its affiliated stations, regard reception reports almost the same junk mail. It is not news to them that they can be heard in Europe. If someone insists on trying to QSL stations like VOXM, then I think that the letter must really stand out. This means a really interesting and original letter. Finally, I would suggest one write to the ``station manager`` or some on-air personality. The engineers have seen enough from DXers.

I still travel to Newfoundland from time to time, but I'm sorry to say that I won't visit VOXM or any other station on behalf of QSL-hunters again. It is too simply embarrassing. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone! (Jean Burnell, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, Dec 24, *ibid.*)

** NORWAY. Re BBCWS on "Radio Norway" frequencies: In fact Radio Norway is dead and gone. Instead NRK puts also the all-news network Alltid Nyheter on the shortwave feed, and Alltid Nyheter relays the BBC Worldservice at times. So BBC relays on NRK / Radio Danmark frequencies are simply NRK output. Regards, (Kai Ludwig, Germany, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST) in English??

** OKLAHOMA. HAMS HELP OUT DURING OKLAHOMA TELEPHONE EMERGENCY

Hams responded to fill a communication gap December 23 after the town of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, experienced a city-wide telephone outage that left telephone customers unable to call outside their local exchange. Broken Arrow implemented its Telecommunications Failure Plan as a result. A request went out for amateurs to assist at the local emergency operations center (EOC) and at three area hospitals.

Several hams in and around the town of 75,000 residents responded to the call. Four Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club members staffed positions at the Broken Arrow EOC and at three hospital emergency rooms. Tulsa Amateur Radio Emergency Service member Joe Iverson, KD5KKZ, reported to the City of Tulsa EOC.

"All in all, things went smoothly," said Broken Arrow ARC president Steve Bradley, KB5ZSD. "The city officials were again very impressed and appreciative with the amateur community's commitment to service and response to the emergency. It is times like these that such partnerships between local government and the local hams become invaluable."

The operation lasted about five hours. In addition to passing traffic between the EOC and the hospitals, lines of communication also were opened with the Oklahoma State Department of Civil Emergency Management in Oklahoma City via the EOC's HF amateur station.

The telephone system troubles were traced to the loss of a digital protocol needed for call routing (ARRL Letter Jan 3 via DXLD)

** PERU. R. La Reina de la Selva, Chachapoyas. Dec 30, 1030-1110 on 5486.74, heard many huaynito criollos. Simple IDs with timechecks were given, "5 de la mañana con 34 minutos, 5.34 de la mañana. ...sta es Radio La Reina de la Selva.", etc. (Shoji YAMADA, Tokyo, Japan, RNM, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** PERU. Hola Glenn... Saludos desde Venezuela y Feliz Año Nuevo... Te cuento que escuché el pasado 04/01, a las 0200 UT, una estación de radio que transmitía desde el municipio de Huancabamba. Con música tradicional y comentarios de un locutor con críticas a los políticos y consignas de apoyo a los campesinos. En ningún momento identifiqué la radio. El programa terminó a las 0231 UT y la señal quedó fuera del aire a las 0232. La señal se desvanecía mucho. Frecuencia 6536.0 (Adán González, Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. 5920 kHz, R. Gardarika, 2223 Dec 22 with mostly music I didn't recognize (some of it techno-pop). A number of Radio studios IDs heard. At 2252 there was an announcement in English by both M & W starting with "Broadcasting live.". I heard the numbers 29801 (the end of a phone number?) plus that this was a special broadcast and Radio Gardarika. Same English announcement made at 2300 as the broadcast ended. Fair signal (John Sgrulletta, Mahopac, NY, USA JRC NRD-515/K9AY & A/D Sloper, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

5920, Radio Studio, 2248-2301* Dec 30, pop vocals with IDs in multiple languages at 2055. Woman announcer with closing announcements followed by jingles and "Radio Studio" ID in English. Program ended at 2300 with carrier cut a minute later. Poor reception (Rich D'Angelo, PA, NASWA Flashsheet via DXLD) Did they really stop after Dec 31? (gh)

** RWANDA. Has anyone received a QSL from Radio Rwanda lately? The 2002 Passport gives BP 404, Kigali, and the 2002 WRTH give BP 83, Kigali as addresses. I'm inclined to follow Passport, but maybe one of you has some information about this? Also, my e-mail to the 6715 Canaries station at pulse@121.net bounced back immediately as undeliverable. So I am trying the fg1c@jet.es address. Thanks! (Jim Renfrew, Byron NY, Cumbredx mailing list, via DXLD)

Jim, Whenever I have a similar question, I first consult the QSL Information Pages, an excellent resource and database for QSLs: <http://www.schoechi.de/qip.html> The most recent Radio Rwanda QSL reported in QIP is from April 2002, and they used the BP 83 address (George Maroti, ibid.)

** SERBIA-MONTENEGRO. A name change for R. Yugoslavia to R. Serbia-

Montenegro? How about shortening it to "Radio S&M". I could say that anyone listening to them would have to be a masochist, but then that would be sadistic & mean! 73, (Ivan Grishin, Ont., Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SIERRA LEONE. Glenn, I note your query about "UNAMSIL" pronunciation. What I heard hardly qualifies as a solid ID, but it sure sounded just like you would pronounce it in English: You-namm-sill (but said quickly, of course). (Jim Renfrew, NY, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Presumed Radio UNAMSIL on 6139.1 kHz, from 01301-0315, playing rap, reggae, and hi-life. SINPO is 33433, and their signal is better than in the past, provided you can get away from the strong QRM from 6145 kHz. This is not a problem for the R8B in LSB sync mode (George Maroti, NY, Jan 4, Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD)

** SRI LANKA. SLBC spurious noted on 11850 of the original frequency of 11905 at 1430 UT on 4 Jan 2003.

TWR tuning signal noted on 873 kHz for a short time at around 2228 UT on 4 Jan 2003. It suddenly changed to the original 882 kHz and started regular transmission from 2230 (The same transmitter is used on 882 by TWR and SLBC on 873 at different times) (Jose Jacob, India, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Is there any reason for the inconvenience of changing MW frequencies other than to 'distance' the two stations from each other? (gh, DXLD)

** TAJIKISTAN. Afghanistan: VOA relay station heard on 801 kHz signing off at 1930 UTC on 31 [sic] Jan 2003. (Jose Jacob, India, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Current IBB schedule admits this actually from Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 230 is the azimuth thruout:

801	0000	0030	RFE	AFG	DA	DB	C	230
801	0030	0130	VOA	AFG	PASH	DB	C	230
801	0130	0230	VOA	AFG	DARI	DB	C	230
801	0230	0330	RFE	AFG	PA	DB	C	230
801	0330	0430	RFE	AFG	DA	DB	C	230
801	1230	1330	RFE	AFG	PA	DB	C	230
801	1330	1430	RFE	AFG	DA	DB	C	230
801	1430	1530	VOA	AFG	PASH	DB	C	230
801	1530	1630	VOA	AFG	DARI	DB	C	230
801	1630	1730	RFE	AFG	PA	DB	C	230
801	1730	1830	RFE	AFG	DA	DB	C	230
801	1830	1930	VOA	AFG	PASH	DB	C	230

801 2330 2400 RFE AFG DA DB C 230
(Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** TURKMENISTAN. 4930 (USB + carrier), Turkmen Radio 2 0026-0103 Jan 4. Alternating talk by YL & OM, with distorted audio. ME sounding vocals at 0034. When I checked on this at 0058, there was either a test tone, or a het. At 0102 an anthem-like song was heard. Thanks to Karl Van Rooy who pointed out who this was while we were both listening to the web radio based in Sweden. SINPO 34333.

5015, Turkmen Radio 1, 0044-0112 Jan 4. Exotic ME vocal music at tune-in, then talk by YL & OM. Some contemporary music. SINPO was 34344 at this time. I re-tuned at 0105, and the signal was degraded, and I started to think this might be Brazil. I tuned to a web radio in Sweden, and found it with much better strength, but delayed about 6 seconds. ID heard at 0110 by the OM (George Maroti, NY, Drake R8B, K9AY loop, 100 foot T2FD, 45 meter long dipole, 150 foot LW fed by coax and noise reducing impedance matching transformer, EDXP via DXLD)

** UGANDA. 4975.96, R. Uganda, Kampala, JAN 5 0318-0420+ - tuned in to a weak signal with a man talking/preaching, reappeared a bit stronger at 0333 with what sounded like Afro-pop, at 0354 two men (fishermen, CIA agents, astronauts?) speaking in Spanish decided to occupy the frequency, but I could tell that English news began at 0400 but very difficult to hear any details, the Spanish talkers left around 0403, finally a clear "Kampala" ID was spoken at 0416:55, followed by what might have been an ad, then more news, still going as I write this. This is a new country for me, after many years trying for it! (Jim Renfrew, Byron NY, Drake R8, longwires, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** UKRAINE. Here is a link to a 2 minute (approx) recording I made of RUI on January 1, 2003 beginning at 0059.40 UT. I made the recording so Alexander could hear the jammer. Caps matter for SWL in the following URL: <http://www.erols.com/kkrist\SWL> (Kraig Krist, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Do you think the jammer is bleedover from the one against Marti on 7365, or something else. Wonder if the changes in its sound were the result of your tuning during the recording? 73, (Glenn to Kraig)

I believe jammer is attempting to cover R. Marti on and around 7365 in case R. Marti slightly changes frequency. On the evening of December 29, 2002 I checked 7375 again. I noticed the jammer from 7340 to 7375. No, I did not tune during the RUI recording. Perhaps, sound changes were due to receiver's DSP or because I recorded on cassette tape and then converted into MP3. What times of the recording have the change? I'll listen again. It's interesting hearing, on the latest WOR, your poor reception of RUI. 73, -- (Kraig to Glenn)

Kraig, Well, I've never known R. Marti to use the frequency-variation technique, just multiple frequencies and sites and as much power and gain as possible. The different sounds to the jammer may well have been produced by the jammer itself, which often offset frequencies (Glenn to Kraig)

I hope others will find the brief audio recording useful. I've already heard from Alexander of RUI. He finds the jammer very interesting. I'm glad we have the technology for me to allow him to hear what I've been trying to describe. In general I think the recording worked well. Perhaps, I'll do more often of interesting listening. Almost forgot. Ukraine was not listed in the 1st 2003 DXLD contents summary. 73, (Kraig Krist, VA, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST) Tnx, fixed

** U A E. Middle East: Radio Asia noted on 1575 kHz with Malayalam songs around 2300 UT on 3 Jan and following days. This station moved to this frequency from 1152 kHz on January 1, 2003 and is broadcasting 24 hours in Malayalam which by the way is my mother tongue. There are lot of expatriates speaking this language in the Middle East. Malayalam is the mother tongue of the people of the Kerala state in South India (Jose Jacob, Hyderabad, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K [and non]. Chicago Sun-Times column about BBCWS favorite song contest

DIVIDED WE STAND ON WORLD'S GREATEST SONGS
January 5, 2003 BY MARK STEYN SUN-TIMES COLUMNIST

Well, it's January 5th and you, the loyal reader, have a right to expect that we media types have given up sloughing off lame-o 'Best Of The Year' lists for another 11-1/2 months. But not so fast. If I were compiling a 'Best Lists Of The Year' list, my best list of the year would be this one: the BBC World Service poll of the Top Ten Songs Of All Time....

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/steyn/cst-edt-steyn05.html>
(via Kim Elliott, DXLD)

** U K. DYKE ORDERS THE BBC TO MAKE ITS ULTIMATE DOCUMENTARY
From The Independent

Director general seeks to preserve Corporation's story in words of those who were there --- By Louise Jury Media Correspondent 2 Jan 2003

Greg Dyke, the director general of the BBC, has been seeking inspiration for the future in the corporation's past. As he considers how to reform the Beeb for the digital age, he has watched hours of old interviews with Hugh Greene, a Fifties predecessor, to learn how

he shook up the stuffy BBC of the post-war era.

The interviews form part of a unique in-house archive chronicling the story of broadcasting in Britain in the words of those who were there, but which has operated on the BBC's margins. Now Mr Dyke has decreed this "oral history" must be expanded and properly preserved, alongside the technical artefacts that help to tell the corporation's story.

For years, it was often enthusiastic technical staff who saved important pieces of BBC heritage. Engineers would take home interesting items of old equipment rather than see them end up on the tip. Now this ad hoc system has been formalised in a special department, under a dedicated head of BBC heritage, Robin Reynolds.

An appeal to old staff has already brought in equipment of historical value. And Rory O'Connell, a curator who started work at the BBC from the Museum of London just before Christmas, aims to track down other pieces languishing in corners of Broadcasting House and Television Centre. They may be brought together in a dedicated museum, or they go on show in the BBC's offices as a reminder of the past.

The BBC is determined to preserve its history through the spoken word. A long-standing programme of recording interviews with senior executives will be widened to take contributions from other BBC employees and popular on-screen faces. Other staff members are expected to contribute to a full understanding of, for instance, the unpopularity of the reforms of John Birt, Greg Dyke's predecessor. Mr Reynolds admits the problem is largely a question of who to leave out. "You can't do everyone," he said. "It would have been great to do [the football commentator] Kenneth Wolstenholme before he died, on the [1966] World Cup."

Other interviews capture in detail broadcasting milestones such as the funeral of Princess Diana and the Millennium celebrations. All are given on the basis that they will remain confidential until the interviewee dies.

The aim is to extract full and frank disclosure about controversial events, such as the 1985 row over Real Lives, a programme about Northern Ireland which the then Conservative Government demanded should be banned, or more recent events such as the decision to establish new digital channels.

Mr Dyke and the BBC chairman, Gavyn Davies, have watched the interviews conducted with Hugh Greene, who tried to shake up the BBC to meet the challenge of its new rival, ITV. Mr Reynolds said Mr Dyke was interested because he too, wanted to change the culture of the BBC, notably in his "cut the crap" campaign.

Mr O'Connell said with major developments planned for Broadcasting House in London and in cities such as Glasgow and Birmingham, his team expects the next couple of years to be busy. "Museums usually get to pick over dead history. This is a mixture of the museum world I know, and working in a living industry. It's completely fascinating." (via Mike Terry, DXLD)

And a rather different angle by the same writer, same publication...

BBC RECORDS ITS OWN SECRET HISTORY

From The Independent, By Louise Jury Media Correspondent, 2 Jan 2003

The "oral memoirs" of senior BBC figures, including Sir David Attenborough, are to be preserved in an archive of broadcasting history ordered by the director general, Greg Dyke.

The candid videotaped interviews with broadcasters and executives who have played central roles in the corporation's history are to be recorded on the promise that their contents will remain secret until the contributors die.

Although the project has existed on a small scale for decades, Mr Dyke is said to be determined that the full story of British public service broadcasting be preserved for the nation and has significantly expanded the list of interviewees to reflect the breadth of the organisation.

The move forms part of a wider project to bring together the thousands of artefacts that chart the BBC's history.

Mr Dyke has made the initiative a priority to ensure that no important pieces of equipment or works of art are lost during the £400m redevelopment of Broadcasting House in Portland Place, London.

For decades, the views of directors general and chairmen of the BBC have been recorded when they left office. But Mr Dyke and Gavyn Davies, his chairman, are now interviewed at least once a year to capture new developments. The list of other interviewees is secret, but has been extended recently to include entertainers and senior executives.

Sir David is understood to have been given a place not just as controller of BBC2 in the 1960s but as one of the most popular broadcasters (via Mike Terry, DXLD)

★★ U K. DIGITAL RADIO IS A CRUEL JOKE

An extract from The Times Online, December 30, 2002, By Chris Campling

THE REVOLUTION will not be televised? Listen, it isn't even being broadcast on the steam radio - well, not to all of us, anyway. Look at the map helpfully provided by the BBC --- on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/digitalradio> --- and you will find that the part of the country capable of receiving digital, either within the home or by means of a simple outside 740ft aerial, begins just to the south of London, and then travels up in a thick, but not thick enough, band to Glasgow. Above that, nada. Same to the west, mostly, and to the East, once you're past Essex. Put simply, the biggest news in radio for 2002, and 2003, is not being received by swaths of the country.

The Beeb will tell you that its digital signal can be received by 65 per cent of the population. Well, of course it can, since London alone comprises 12 per cent of the population. So once you add in the other big conurbations you're pretty close to the 65 per cent without even trying.

The Beeb also says it intends to reach 85 per cent of the nation digitally by the beginning of 2004. Which means that the signal may just creep far enough into East Anglia to be received by me, with my trusty little 740 ft aerial. The rest of the country, presumably, can go on whistling Dixie.

This means no crystal-clear reception, no vast choice of stations, no sense of being at the front line of the white heat of technology thingie. I wouldn't really care, except that sports fans are missing out. And I'm a cricket fan. Twelve years ago I would sleep next to my stereo because that was the only way I could be close to source when I woke from a fitful doze to catch the latest Ashes disaster as it happened. These days I have a long-wave trannie and sleep with earphones on - but this did not help me during the one-day ICC Trophy tournament in October, or the current one-day series between England, Australia and Sri Lanka. For ball-by-ball coverage of both these tournaments was/is available only on digital radio. Radio apartheid is here.

I'll tell you who I feel really sorry for - it's the ones in the Outer Darkness who lashed out hundreds for a digital car radio, only to find they had to drive for miles just so they could listen to it.

Look, I know there are ways around the problem. Owners of digital TV boxes can tune in that way, while digital radio coverage is available on the internet. But excuse me; I did not fall in love with radio so that my family and I could cluster around the computer of an evening. The great power of radio is its portability, and its ability to blend

with and provide a background to whatever activity the listener is pursuing. (more on web site) (via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** U S A. WRMI, 15725, is still filling with classical music, at least on Saturdays. Jan 4 from 1445 past 1500, sounded like Mozart's Requiem. Now they need to learn *how* to present classical music. Each piece should be identified before and after, with composer, title, performers, including orchestra and conductor as a minimum. Classical music shall not be chopped off or even faded out or in. At 1500, as always happens on WRMI, the music was chopped off and on for a canned ID --- shortly after it came back there was a natural pause where the ID could have gone (tho purists, which I admit to be, would not interrupt it here either --- classical pieces should always be played in their entirety without interruption or talkover, and there should be at least a respectful one-second pause before and after, NOT tightly produced). US stations are allowed to delay IDs beyond Top of Hour in such cases, and ought to be *required* to do so. Wagner was the victim at 1600. Still classical past 2000, and tho I've not kept track, I think I hear the same war horses, and never any announcements. Perhaps they are rotating a few CDs (Glenn Hauser, ex-classical music programmer and announcer, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. In compiling my yearender, I came across last April's Monitoring Times, which judging from the sealed plastic wrapper around it, I never got round to reading (it was a busy month). Such as this:

AFRTS CONTRACTS BOEING

US Armed Forces Radio and Television service programs are broadcast from a number of transmitters located around the world, including the Florida Keys on 4278.5 and 12689.5 kHz USB. Initially handled by the U.S Navy when the broadcasts started in 1998, the day-to-day operation of the Florida Keys site has now been contracted out to Boeing.

Boeing tells MT that the transmissions are from the NCTS [Naval Computer Telecommunications Center] facility on Saddlebunch Keys, which are about 15 miles east of Key West. The station is visible to the north from US Highway 1, but a locked gate, apparently a post - 9/11 development, blocks entry. Two 1-kW transmitters are connected to a couple of whip antennas. Both are operated 24 hours a day.

Altho AFRTS Washington DC has QSled these transmissions, the site also welcomes reports. You can write them at : NCTS-Jacksonville-Detachment Key West, Building A1004, Naval Air Station Boca Chica, Key West, FL 33040 (Hans Johnson, Communications, Apr 2002 Monitoring Times via DXLD)

** U S A. And On the end of VOA Communications World:

Speculation here is that the VOA, in the aftermath of September 11, had become squeamish about producing the kind of program that inevitably must discuss broadcasting-related activities (like clandestine radio operations) that involve less transparent aspects of U.S. policy. For his part, being a journalist, Dr. Elliott could not consent to restrictions on his reporting and something had to give. Of course, I could be all wrong about this... (John Figliozi, Program Highlights, April 2002 Monitoring Times via DXLD)

**** U S A. BUSHISMS ADDED TO LIST OF BANNED WORDS**

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. (Reuters) - Overused clichés, wordy redundancies and hyperbolic phrases -- including the Bushism "make no mistake about it" -- were declared banished on Wednesday by the university overseers of an annual list of banned words.

Other favored utterances of President Bush such as "material breach," "weapons of mass destruction," and "homeland security," were the tired targets of the New Year's Day list compiled by the public relations staff at Lake Superior State University.

This year's list of 23 worn-out words and phrases was whittled down from 3,000 entries submitted to the school from around the world to its Web site, <http://www.lssu.edu/banished>

"Make no mistake about it" was nominated by several contributors, one of whom commented, "Who's mistaken, anyway?"

As usual, the media and advertising worlds came in for ridicule.

In response to the catch-phrase "must-see TV," contributor Nan Heflin of Colorado wrote: "Must find remote. Must change channel." The list-writers added: "Television once pitched entertainment. Apparently now it's taken on a greater imperative. (It) assumes herd mentality over program taste."

Another linguistic target was "now, more than ever," which contributor Matthew Lowe of New Jersey said "has become overused since the (Sept. 11) terrorist attacks ... from warnings to be safe, to stores having sales ... It has to go."

Advertisers would be better off finding another superlative other than "extreme," which contributors complained had evolved from an adjective denoting dangerous sports into a promotional tag for products from cars to deodorant.

"Branding" too has morphed from something burned into a cow's rump

into "any activity that supports a company's desire to clearly define its products," said Nancy Hicks of Virginia.

Irritating to many contributors were the overused "having said that" and "that said," to which David Patrick of Indiana said: "I heard you the first time."

To those who trumpet facing one "challenge" after another in their lives, Ray Lucas of Michigan suggested keeping quiet and locating a solution.

Sports clichés such as "got game" -- referring to a player with skills -- and "mental mistake" -- is there any other kind? -- also came in for criticism. And "There is no score," is merely a misnomer for a score of 0-0, a contributor opined.

Tautologies such as "frozen tundra," which by definition is frozen, and "an undisclosed, secret location," as in references to Vice President Dick Cheney's position, repeat themselves.

Finally, the list gave the heave-ho to the self-important obituary writer's phrase, "untimely death," which seems to suggest some deaths are more tragic than others. "Has anyone yet died a timely death?" asked Donald Burgess of California. 01/01/03 07:12 ET (via AOL Canada news via Fred Waterer, Jan 3, DXLD)

**** U S A. ART BELL, W6OBB, RETIRES**

Art Bell, W6OBB, bid a final farewell to his Coast to Coast A.M. radio show as 2002 gave way to 2003. Over the fifteen years he hosted the show, Bell took it to the very top of the ratings peak. It was over 450 radio stations in North America, heard world wide over the Internet and had an audience estimated in the 10's of millions. Bell had departed the show once before due to a family situation that needed his full time and attention. The show did not do well under the substitute hosts. Bell returned the following year and and rebuilt the program to its powerhouse position on the Premiere Radio Network. Often, after the program, Bell could be found on 75 meters chatting with his friends. In saying goodbye to his listeners, W6OBB explained that this is not the end of his career in radio. Actually it's a new beginning. Bell says that he and his wife have made one of their dreams come true. They built their own radio station, KNYE, located in Pahrump, Nevada and it's now on the air. Bell says that building KNYE into the station he wants it to become will be the next challenge in his broadcasting career. Meantime, you can still hear -- and talk to Art Bell, but only if your signal can be heard in Pahrump. Just listen on or near 3.840 MHz for the call sign W6OBB. If you hear Art, please say hello and you might add -- "...thanks for the ride." (ARNewsline

Jan 3 via DXLD) WTFK??

** U S A. ARRL CONCLUDES 5-MHz EXPERIMENTS, AWAITS FCC DECISION ON NEW BAND

Without fanfare, the ARRL allowed its WA2XSY 5-MHz experimental license to lapse January 1 rather than request renewal for another year. Last May, the FCC proposed going along with the ARRL's 2001 request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. Discussions with various governmental agencies--including the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)--continue on how to accommodate amateur operation in the band, which is primary for several governmental agencies including the military. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government.

"At this point, we have every reason to believe the FCC will act on its proposal early this year," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As to what the outcome will be as far as 5 MHz is concerned, we cannot predict."

In a December 24 letter, Sumner thanked the 15 Amateur Radio clubs and individual amateurs who took part in the 5-MHz experimental operation that began in January 1999 and largely concluded in 2002. "You assisted in providing an important part of the groundwork for our petition for a domestic allocation to the Amateur Radio Service in this frequency range by demonstrating the desirability and feasibility of a shared allocation," he wrote. "We hope it will not be long before amateurs throughout the country are able to enjoy the fruits of your efforts."

Sumner said the ARRL chose not to request another renewal of the WA2XSY license because it already had obtained sufficient information to justify its petition for the band.

Until surprise opposition surfaced last fall from the NTIA, the FCC had the League's request for a new 60-meter band on the proverbial fast track. In a letter filed with the FCC last August --- after the comment deadline had passed --- the NTIA recommended that the Commission not go forward with the 5-MHz proposal. The NTIA said several government agencies with allocations in the proposed spectrum had expressed reservations about allowing amateurs to use the band, even on a non-interference basis.

The ARRL has been working with the federal agencies involved to resolve the impasse the NTIA letter raised. The NTIA said critical federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the US Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, were making extensive use of 5

MHz frequencies. The FCC's May 2002 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) fails to adequately protect these "critical government operations" from harmful interference, the NTIA asserted.

The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service." In its July 2001 petition, the League told the FCC that a new band at 5 MHz would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters.

Experimental operations on 5 MHz continue on a very limited basis in the United Kingdom and in Canada. In Newfoundland, the Marconi Radio Club's V01MRC has been operating under experimental authority from Industry Canada and an endorsement from Radio Amateurs of Canada to conduct experiments on 5 MHz. On December 21, V01MRC completed a cross-band (5 MHz/7 MHz) CW contact with VK7RO in Tasmania (ARRL Letter Jan 3 via DXLD, also via Mike Terry)

** U S A. The most heavily top-loaded tower that I have seen is the Loran tower near Gillette WY. Even though it is 700 feet tall, that is a very short 25 degrees at the VLF frequencies it operates on. The upper guy wires serve as a capacitance hat almost all of the way back down to the ground. There are photos of the site on my web page at <http://community.webtv.net/AM-DXer/> Tab down to Loran Station (Patrick Griffith, CBT, Westminster, CO, NRC-AM via DXLD)

Fred, do you know of any broadcast stations using Phillystran? (a non-conductive material that can substitute for steel guy wires. Hams commonly use it if they're going to mount an antenna on the side of their tower --- they don't want the guy wires affecting the antenna. It's really expensive, though. There must be commercial applications as I don't see any way ham radio could create enough sales to cover the development costs.) I've also seen guy wires broken up where they pass a side-mounted FM antenna, or a studio-transmitter link dish.

WGNS-1450 in Murfreesboro, TN used a variation on this design (the tower collapsed a few years ago and I've not been back since it was rebuilt, don't know if they stuck with the same scheme). It was a self-supporting, grounded tower with what looked like water pipe (*not* coax) exiting the back of the transmitter building and attached to a leg of the tower maybe 30 feet up. Works pretty well, too; their signal is pretty good for a graveyard station (though the swampy location probably helps). While you can't say a tower isn't AM because there's no base insulator, you're probably safe to say it *is* AM if there *is* one. There will be a few exceptions, but not many (Doug Smith, TN, ibid.)

Doug, when I visited KRVN [880 Lexington NE] several years ago, it had 100% Phillystran for all of the guy wires on all of the towers. No

metal at all in the guys.

When KPOF [Denver 910] replaced their 50-year-old 4-leg self-supporting tower with a uniform cross section tower in the early 80s, the old self supporting tower with its 4 base insulators was left in place. The base insulators were bridged to ground with straps but they were still visible and looked intact. A detuning system was installed since it was only 1/4 mile from the new tower. It then continued in service for another 10+ years as a land mobile tower. The detuning skirt ran up 2 legs and made the tower look very much like a folded unipole with base insulators. It finally reached the point where the tower maintenance folks refused to climb it for painting and relamping. After cutting 2 of the 4 legs with a torch it still wouldn't fall. So they had to re-weld the 2 cut legs, then climb part way up and tie a cable to the tower, then cut the 2 legs again, and finally pull it over with a bulldozer! (Patrick Griffith, CBT, Westminster, CO, USA, NRC-AM via DXLD)

** VENEZUELA. Radio T-chira, 4830, 0314-0345 Jan 1, man announcer with Spanish announcements, ads, TC and ID followed by lively Latin male vocals. Alternating between chatter by the man and lively vocals. Fair to good signal with some heterodyne from 4832, presumably Radio Litoral forced to move back to this location on the dial (Rich D'Angelo, PA, NASWA Flashsheet via DXLD) Often inactive

** VENEZUELA. Por primera vez en muchos decenios, Radio Nacional de Venezuela vuelve a ocupar los primeros lugares de sintonía en el país, disputándose el encendido con las radios de mayor popularidad, las cuales siempre han sido las privadas. El noticiero del canal 630, "RNV Noticias" (con cuatro emisiones diarias), es uno de los más sintonizados en hogares y automóviles. Saludos, (Adán González, Catia La Mar, VENEZUELA, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

UNIDENTIFIED. Re unID in Spanish on 1009.8, DXLD 3-002:

Is it not true that "La Raza" is a term used by Mexican immigrants to the USA to describe themselves/their culture? I would think this slogan and the ranchera mentions would pin this station as somewhere in the U.S. (Doug Smith, W9WI, ibid.)

KTNZ, Amarillo TX, has the slogan "La Raza" (per the Arbitron web site -- if you haven't used this site yet, follow the instructions on my links page <http://www.inetworld.net/halls/dx/links.html> And has been reported by other DXers on 1009.78 kHz. Nice catch! 73, (Tim Hall Chula Vista, CA, amfmtvdx via DXLD)

KTNZ is from Amarillo and this certainly should be what JW has here. The pura música ranchera and La Raza mentions as well as the ranchera

music in the slogan are clear. 73 KAZ (Neil Kazaross, IL, ibid.)

I guess I'm going with KTNZ. Many thanks to all ! Will keep checking for them, hoping for a better ID. 73, (John WB9UAI, Milwaukee, ibid.)

UNIDENTIFIED. Thank you for your original idea of pursuing the medium of shortwave radio forever and ever Amen. I was lucky to be introduced to shortwave as a youngster, and was and still am (40 years later) tuning in to WWV regularly. I recall listening to broadcasts from Greenbelt MD, sans voice announcements, with Morse ID every five minutes.

Now, having proven my geezer status, could you tell an old man who is putting out this discordant time signal on 5 Megahertz, every evening? It is most certainly not Caracas, Venezuela, who have done a fine job in the past. Very compatible. No, this must be someone else, very far away, about a third of a second off in time, and causing an extremely annoying beat approaching 10 Hz. Best Regards in the New Year, (Sigurd Rottingen, location unknown, Jan 4, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

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#### PROPAGATION

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#### SOLAR UPDATE

Wave bender Tad "Who can make the sun shine, on a cloudy day?" Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: Last week we reported sunspot numbers dropping dramatically. This week it became a trend. Average daily sunspot numbers for the past three weeks were 206.1, 164.4 and 55.3. Average solar flux was 188.7, 169.1 and 117.1. The real shocker though was Monday, with a sunspot number of only 44! I thought it possible that the sunspot number had not been that low since the other side of the solar cycle (before the peak), but we actually saw lower values of 27 and 38 on September 11 and September 12, 2000. On September 26, 1999, it was also 44 --- and that was probably on the other side of the peak of the current cycle.

Last year was surprisingly good in terms of high sunspot activity. The average daily sunspot number for Calendar Year 2002 was actually slightly higher than any of the three previous years. Average daily sunspot numbers for the years 1997 through 2002 were 30.7, 88.7, 136.3, 173, 170.3 and 176.6. Note the 176.6 value is lower than the 178.3 reported in last week's bulletin as the average sunspot number for the first 359 days of the year. The drop in sunspot numbers over the past week was so dramatic that it actually dropped the yearly average by nearly two points! Average daily solar flux for the same

six years was 81, 117.9, 153.7, 179.6, 181.6 and 179.5.

What is the trend? Let's look at quarterly averages.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the past eight quarters were 147.3, 164.8, 170.4, 198.1, 178.3, 165.3, 193.5 and 152.7. Average daily solar flux for those same quarters was 164.4, 166.7, 175.5, 219.1, 203.9, 156.4, 178.1 and 164.2. As you can see, there is quite a bit of variability in the values. Solar cycles only appear smooth when looking backward and doing a moving average of the data.

Currently Earth is entering a solar wind from a small coronal hole on the sun. Conditions could be unsettled on Friday and Saturday. The projected planetary A index for Friday through Monday is 15, 15, 10 and 8. The projected solar flux for those same days is 120, 125, 125 and 130.

Sunspot numbers for December 26 through January 1 were 62, 63, 70, 51, 44, 50 and 47, with a mean of 55.3. The 10.7-cm flux was 127.4, 116.5, 116.9, 114.8, 113.8, 115.1 and 115, with a mean of 117.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 15, 37, 19, 13, 15, 11 and 10, with a mean of 17.1 (ARRL Letter Jan 4 via DXLD)

#### TEAM UNRAVELS SUNSPOT MYSTERY

In what may be one of the most important steps in understanding sunspots since they were discovered by Chinese sky watchers more than two millennia ago, researchers at Rochester, along with researchers at the University of Colorado, University of Cambridge, and University of Leeds, have reported an answer to several sunspot mysteries in the current issue of Nature. [Note: this is a replacement for the link that was expired for this item last week--Jilly]

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L18225CE2> or  
<http://www.rochester.edu/pr/Currents/V30/V30N21/story07.html>  
(via Jilly Dybka, NAWA Flashsheet via DXLD)

#### [HCDX] EMERGING TECHNIQUES IN HIGH-TECH DX

The portable computer can profoundly change the way you DX. A group of four experienced American DXers shows you how in this new HCDX feature article, Emerging Techniques of High-Tech DX.  
<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/nordicdx/dxlab/hitechdx/hitechdx.html>

Here DXers Guy Atkins, John Bryant Nick Hall-Patch and Don Nelson, all of Proceedings of Fine Tuning fame, explain in detail how to best use modern computer software to enhance you DXing. Subjects range from software that is familiar to most DXers to some that will be new to virtually everyone in the hobby and include:



Sunrise-sunset: GEOCLOCK  
Information/Reference Management  
Semi-Automated Reception Logging: B-LOG  
Laptop as Tape Recorder: TOTAL RECORDER and THE AMAZING SLOW DOWNER  
Direct Receiver Control: GNRX320, ERG03 and ERG04  
Other laptop Applications: Hall-Patch's DX RADAR

And it will not cost you a lot.

"We have a general tendency to to adopt the simplest and least expensive software available that is highly effective. Several of us use laptops similar to those currently available on ebay for under \$300," explains HighTech DXer John Bryant.

"Three of the programs that we discuss are freeware, and only two of the eight software packages require any learning curve to operate effectively. Further, most of the programs that we discuss are quite small and undemanding of computer resources." (Hermod Pedersen, hard-core-dx Jan 4 via DXLD)

Also up on DXing.info at <http://www.dxing.info/articles/hitech.dx> as an HTML file, and also an MS Word file at [http://www.dxing.info/articles/hitech\\_dxpeditiioning.doc](http://www.dxing.info/articles/hitech_dxpeditiioning.doc)  
73s (Mika M%kel%inen <http://www.dxing.info/> CorazÛn DX via DXLD)\_

#### QSL DAYS CALCULATOR

Glenn, As an example of javascript I created a QSL Days Calculator allowing one to calculate either Days between the Report Sent and QSL Received Dates, calculate the Report Sent Date or calculate the QSL Received Date. I've also provided a ZIP file, for downloading, containing a JavaScript and a VBScript example of the QSL Date Calculator. People are free to modify the QSL Days Calculator as needed. Please see [http://www.erols.com/kkrist/SWL 73, \(-.. . Kraig, KG4LAC, Krist, DX LISTENING DIGEST\) ###](http://www.erols.com/kkrist/SWL%2073%20(-...%20Kraig%20KG4LAC%20Krist%20DX%20LISTENING%20DIGEST).zip)